

Even after all these years, the musical performances of Juan Chabaya (Padu) Lampe always feel new and unique, offering a special nuance or inflection. Though slight in stature, this soft-spoken, humble 90-year-old man is a giant figure in Aruba's culture. Still playing with great dexterity and enthusiasm, the glint in his eye and easy smile show just how much he still enjoys music. A talented, self-taught writer, performer, musician, composer, poet, painter, and philosopher, Padu has spent a lifetime expressing his profound love for his country. His multi-faceted talent and energy continue to inspire all those around him.

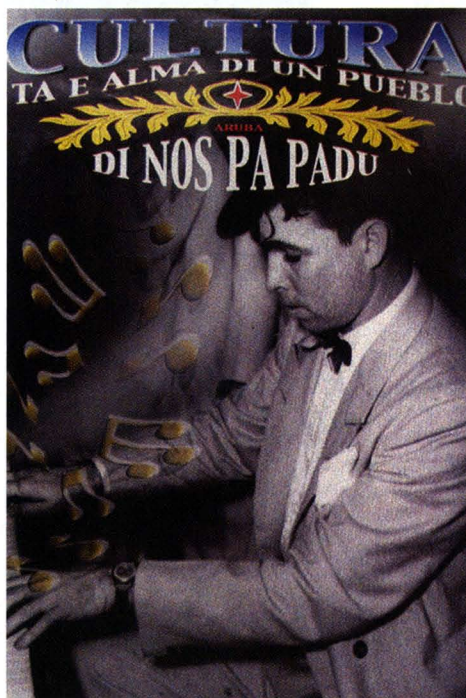
Padu is perhaps best known as co-collaborator of *Aruba Dushi Tera*, composed together in 1954 with the illustrious late Rufo Wever. It would become the island's national anthem on 3/16/76, performed for the first time for an audience of more than 10,000 people at Wilhelmina Stadium. This lilting patriotic tune captures a deep love for the island in a melody that can be interpreted as a march or a waltz. This legendary duo also composed Aruba's very first Carnival song 56 years ago.

Padu has played the piano since he was a child. He found his few childhood lessons so boring that he astonished his teacher by suddenly changing from the repetitive scales to a beautiful waltz. By age ten, he was able to play the *cuarta* (4-stringed guitar), mandolin and clarinet as well. To this day, he does not read music and plays all his piano pieces by memory.

Padu's repertoire includes more than 300 waltzes, tumbas, boleros, merengues and mambos composed over the course of more than fifty years. He has received honors and recognition in Aruba, Holland and Venezuela for his distinguished musical accomplishments. From 1965-1980, as Director of ALM, the former airline of the Netherlands Antilles, Padu traveled overseas and took this opportunity to

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promote the island's culture through his music. Aruba's goodwill ambassador for over fifty years, Padu is an international artist who has performed in Curaçao, Bonaire, Jamaica, Venezuela, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba and also in Miami, New York, and Canada.

In the 1950s and 60s, Padu recorded and released a great number of folkloric and original pieces, as well as works written by Rufo Wever and other Arubian composers. In 1960, he received the RCA Golden Piano Award for his record, *Padu del Caribe en Venezuela*. He caused a stir with his productions of "Padu del Caribe and his Esso Show" for television, featuring an array of sometimes unconventional local talent.

In the 1990s, Padu released three award-winning, top-selling CDs which were collections of Aruban music from past decades. In 1995, he represented Aruba at the exciting *Concierto di siglo* (Concert of the Century), performing with Dominico Herrera of Bonaire and Norman Moron of Curaçao before packed audiences on the three islands. In 1996, he performed at concert halls throughout Holland; his appearance at the famous Concertgebouw in Amsterdam was attended by members of the Dutch Royal Family. In 1997, an elegant ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Aruba was named after him. A special cultural event in his honor took place on Flag Day last year. He is honored as the father of Aruba's culture at Paseo Herencia, the shopping and entertainment center across from the Holiday Inn.

Padu's paintings celebrate his native land, with such themes as music, flowers, sports, landscapes, portraits. His works have been part of international expositions, among them at the 1939 World's Fair and the 1955 Alcoa Steamship Company's Caribbean Art Exposition, both in New York. He has participated in many individual and collective expositions in Aruba throughout the second half of the 20th century.

Padu is a very spiritual person who meditates, prays daily and has a profound appreciation for nature. Though written decades ago, his books dealing with the power of positive thinking, parapsychology and metaphysics remain relevant today.

Photos taken from the recent commemorative book created in Padu's honor